REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 15, 16 and 22-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 22, and 24-27 have been amended herein. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to Claim 1 because of the following informalities: In line 10-12 a cancellation was made of the limitation wherein "[, there being at least as many encryption/decryption security context identifiers as the predetermined number of stages in the encryption/decryption process]. However, because the word "security" was underlined, it was unclear whether or not the applicant was attempting to cancel or amend to be present. Applicants have submitted an amended Claim 1 above, showing that the intent was to cancel the limitation entirely.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 12, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended Claims 12, 12, 22, and 25 herein to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner rejected Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 23, 24, and 26-27 under 25 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 5, 16, 24, and 27 herein to overcome this rejection.
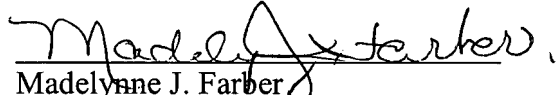
The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 22, 24, 25, and 27 under 25 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 22, 24, 25, and 27 herein to overcome this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended and claims newly added herein are allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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